



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON MAN CHARGED IN CLINTON, MO., BANK ROBBERY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton man was charged in federal court today with the armed robbery of U.S. Bank in Clinton, Mo.

Thomas Milton Gaugh, 60, of Belton, Mo., is charged with using a handgun to rob U.S. Bank, 115 East Franklin Street in Clinton, Mo., in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas City this afternoon.

Gaugh allegedly stole \$7,179 from the bank on October 29, 2002, Graves said. According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, **Gaugh** walked into U.S. Bank at about 3:30 p.m. that day. Approaching a teller, **Gaugh** allegedly placed a bag on the counter and ordered her to "fill it up."

The affidavit alleges that **Gaugh** left the bank in a silver/blue Toyota Celica, which was seen by a law enforcement officer about 20 minutes later traveling north on Highway 7 near Urich, Mo. The officer stopped the vehicle, Graves said, and arrested **Gaugh**. During the arrest, the officer observed a Smith & Wesson revolver lying on the floorboard of the front passenger seat of **Gaugh's** vehicle. A black bag containing \$7,179 was also recovered from the vehicle.

U.S. Attorney Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Henry County Sheriff's Office, and the Clinton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow